

# WESTERN UNION.

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## WESTERN UNION.

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## LOUISA WILLIAMS;

## OR THE ORPHAN BOUND GIRL.

## A TALE OF THE QUEEN CITY.

BY MRS. P. FARMER.

## CHAPTER VII.

Louisa had become so enfeebled by the treatment which she had received, that Henry found it necessary to support her whole weight, and frequently to stop that she might rest, and calm her agitation. But the pure and balmy air, lent its invigorating influence to her crushed spirits and imparted a new energy through her weak and emaciated frame; and her step apparently became more firm, as they slowly proceeded on their way towards the house of Mrs. McCarty, who was becoming impatient at Henry's long absence; and fearful lest he had failed in the enterprise. When at length she saw them approaching, she sprang forward and caught Louisa in her arms, exclaiming, heaven bless the darling sure as ye be here at last! I am I was just thinking I should never see your blessed face again. Sit down, child, and let me help you off with your cloak and cap. Holy mother! is it sick ye have been? How miserable ye look, honey! poor creature sure I am they have starved you, the miserly brutes!

Henry now handed Louisa a glass of cordial which he had provided, and requested Mrs. McCarty to prepare her a simple diet, of which she must partake sparingly.

She was soon so far restored as to be able to give them a full account of all that had happened to her since she last saw Henry. He was almost stupefied with horror at the recital of her sufferings, which so far exceeded his imagination; Mrs. McCarty wept like a child, and called down the vengeance of heaven, in turn, upon the persons who had inflicted such cruelties.

The first tint of morning was visible on the eastern horizon ere Henry took leave of his two friends, to seek a few hours repose, with a promise to visit them again in the evening.

Louisa was now divested of her filthy clothing, and dressed in a clean suit, by the kind-hearted washerwoman, and desired to take some rest, as she appeared very much fatigued.

There was no fear that her guardian would attempt her recovery; on the contrary, he would in all probability, leave the city as soon as Louisa was missed, until the storm had subsided which her release would be likely to create.

"Henry, do you think we are safe here?" inquired Louisa, as they were sitting together that evening in Mrs. McCarty's best room.

"Perfectly so," replied her companion, "your guardian has already left the city, fearing it might become too hot for his comfort. And besides, Louisa Williams would never be detected in that disguise, even by her most intimate acquaintances."

Louisa blushed as her eye fell upon the beautiful dress in which she was now attired, for she fully comprehended his meaning. It was the first time she had ever been indulged in becoming apparel. "Ah," said she, "I fear you will find me an unrepentable coquette."

"Say not so, dearest Louisa; were you the penniless orphan which you think yourself, I should feel proud of one so lovely. I have much to communicate to you, which circumstances have prevented me from explaining before—Had you any knowledge of a relative living in Philadelphia?"

"None."

"Did you never hear your guardian mention the name of Dennis?"

"Never, except there being he was conversing with yourself."

"Your mother had an aunt living there by that name, who has now been dead about six months. At her death, she left her property, amounting to some eight hundred dollars, to yourself, and exacted a promise of me that I would visit you in person, and explain some particulars which she feared had been purposely withheld from your knowledge. She had written to you several times, but got no answer, and concluded you were dead, until a short time before her death, she received intelligence of you through a gentleman who had resided in this city, which was far from being satisfactory, and aroused her suspicions that all was not right."

"Indeed that all is the mystery which defied all my attempts to solve. But how could Mr. Langley have suspected your business?"

"Guilt is always attended by mistrust. When you have heard all, you will not be surprised at the keen penetration which told that the immense wealth which your guardian claims, belongs of right to yourself."

"To me? surely you are not in earnest?"

"Pardon me, Miss Williams, my mission here is not to deceive you, but should you desire it, as a friend to redress your wrongs. The facts which I am about to disclose, are the true cause of all your sufferings. Your wealth had nearly cost you your life; but an All-wise Providence had otherwise ordered it; and may your future

days be as happy as the past have been miserable."

"What could be the cause of my aunt's letters not reaching me?"

"I presume your guardian could explain all were he so minded, yet it would be of little consequence now."

"Did she become acquainted with the particulars of my situation in Mr. Langley's family?"

"She learned this much, that you were regarded as a poor bound girl, and treated as such by the family; but she had not even dreamed that the little property left by your father had increased in value until it is worth thousands."

"She knew it only as a few acres of land lying adjacent to a thriving village. She had no conception of a city, which had planted innumerable walls of brick and mortar in the very midst of your father's corn fields; and consequently the little farm which he had purchased some twenty years ago, for a few hundred dollars, is now worth thousands; yet such proves to be the fact. I carefully examined the records, and find there will be but little difficulty in establishing your claim."

"I have no knowledge of my parentage or early history," said Louisa, yet I have a faint recollection of an old lady taking me in her arms and kissing me, and going away in a carriage. Did she tell you of ever visiting this place?"

"O yes, she came out to this part of the country with your parents before you were born."

"She explained to me all the particulars of her journey here, together with your history until she left you were then about four years of age."

"The facts, as she told me, are these: Your father, whose name was John Williams, was among the first settlers of this place. He was a farmer in moderate circumstances, and on his removal here from Pennsylvania, he brought Mrs. Dennis, your mother's aunt, and the only relative they had living. They had been here out a few years, when a fever carried them off within a few weeks of each other. You, their only child, was left to the care of your mother's aunt, who was then far advanced in life."

"Mr. Langley, then a thriving mechanic, was undertaking in his kindness and attention to her, and consequently deemed her best friend. Through him, he was appointed your guardian. Your property at that time did not yield an income sufficient for your maintenance; your aunt was therefore prevailed upon to have you bound to him until you were of age. This was only accomplished by a solemn promise that you should be raised, and educated as his own daughter, he being childless. I need not explain to you how that promise has been kept. Your aunt's health was rapidly giving way in this new country; she was therefore persuaded to return to Philadelphia, where she resided until her death, which happened about six months ago. She continued to receive the most flattering accounts of you from your guardian, until her last illness; and when she had become too infirm to write herself, but after this she received no more letters, either from you or your guardian. At length, thinking herself forgotten, she discontinued writing altogether. A few weeks before her death, a gentleman with whom she was slightly acquainted, and who had spent several years in this city, returned to Philadelphia, and from him she learned that Mr. Langley had a servant, a bound girl, he believed, which answered to her description of you."

"This aroused her suspicion that there was some foul play, when she sent for me and related what I have now told you. I likewise drew up a new will, which gave you her little property, and promised her to visit Cincinnati on her demise, to look after you should you be living; yet I little thought what would be the result."

"The course which I have pursued in regard to yourself since I came here, was entirely unpremeditated, although it may seem otherwise to you. On my first enquiry concerning you, I was so completely taken by surprise on learning your situation, that I was determined to probe the matter to the bottom before any person should become acquainted with the nature of my business here. I procured boarding at a private house, and fortunately received an introduction to you, and under this disguise of home-spun clothing was enabled to cultivate an acquaintance with you without suspicion, until your guardian became aroused. A sympathy for your hard lot, and a hope that I might be of service to you in some way, before I could thoroughly explain my mission, made me desirous of obtaining your friendship; but I will not speak now of the impression those visits made upon me. Suffice it to say, I saw charms beneath the coarse garb of a servant girl, which I had never before met with, in the parlor or drawing room. But let that pass. When your guardian questioned me abruptly, and mentioned the name of Dennis, I was confounded; I knew the time had now come in which I must make known to you the secret, or as much of it as I had been able to discover. It was for this purpose that I appointed a private meeting, but you know the result. On the following day I became aware that in order to ensure entire success, your guardian's suspicions must be allayed if possible, and everything kept perfectly silent until you were of legal age. To accomplish this I saw but two ways, either to leave you nearly a year in ignorance, and at the mercy of your cruel guardian, or to remove you secretly from the city. And when you advised me of his scheme, in compelling you to marry David Grant, I saw the latter to be the only alternative, could I prevail on you to adopt it. Our conversation, the last evening we met in the grave I presume you have not forgotten, yet I little thought that night when we parted, of all the agony you were to suffer before we met again; but that is past now, and you are safe; yet as I have already told you, it will be much to your interest if the whole affair, as well as your place of residence, can be kept a secret until you are of age."

"Louisa was deeply affected at the disclosures Henry had made; so much so that it was some moments ere she could command her feelings sufficiently to express her gratitude for the interest he had taken in her welfare. "I know of none but yourself to whom I can look for advice," said she at length, "and if you were worthy of

my aunt's confidence, you are fully entitled to mine; and I shall be guided by your superior judgment."

"Indeed, I cannot but feel flattered by your preference, and shall strive to discharge my duty as a friend and brother." At the mention of the last words, there was a visible change in Louisa's countenance; but turning Henry's eyes fixed upon her, she recovered herself, and inquired:

"Is every thing in readiness for my departure?"

"To-morrow I expect to see a gentleman from whom I can learn all the particulars which are now required. I have just engaged to use the utmost caution in proceeding my inquiries, which has made it far more tedious than it would otherwise have been. As soon as your wealth shall be sufficiently restored to endure the journey, everything will be ready."

"Do you still think it best that I should go to Philadelphia?"

"I do. And as you have agreed to submit to my judgment, I design placing you for one year, at an excellent boarding school a few miles from this city, providing the arrangement meets your approval."

"I could not do myself the injustice, to disapprove of a course which reason teaches me I ought to pursue."

"Reader, we will now pass over one year, and again introduce to you the orphan, but not now the poor bound girl, for she has just entered her nineteenth year. Behold her seated by an open casement, in a neatly furnished parlor, just on the outskirts of the beautiful village of C—, where she has been diligently pursuing her studies for the last year. At her feet lies a guitar on which she has just discovered a sweet and favorite air. The song has awoke in her mind a train of deep meditation, and all the scenes of her past life come crowding through her brain; each thrilling a responsive chord, until a tear, a sigh, has converted its memory. Her whole soul seems absorbed in this waking dream. "Strangely," she mentally exclaims, "strange that in all the letters he has written me, not one sentence of love has been breathed. His warm, and unobscured friendship has been varied in each little misadventure, yet it chills my heart like the cold breath of winter. Once the name of brother would have filled my soul with gladness; but now I have not heard him utter words that sent a thrill of rapture through every vein? Twice only have I beheld him since first my eye rested upon the glowing scenery of your lovely vale. Then, as now, the setting sun threw over the entire landscape a bright golden mantle, which waved over the green treetops in a thousand graceful folds. But it seems less beautiful now than when he first drew my attention to its enchanting beauty. His eloquent import to each gaze, has a double brilliancy for my enraptured gaze. Now they seem to feel—a sadness presses upon my heart, as I view those priceless gifts which Nature has spread out so bountifully around me. Is it that doubts of his sincerity will at such times intrude themselves upon me, which fill my heart with gloom and desolation. Yet I cannot believe him changed. No, he is truth itself. His soul is too noble and generous to harbor deception. Perhaps he thinks the rich heiress has not the same affections which knelt in the bosom of the poor orphan bound girl, yet how gladly would I lag behind her poor and friendless handmaid, could that alone secure his sympathy, his love. But he comes to-night, and my heart must not be clouded. That song he dearest me to sing, let me run over it again, that I may prove I have not been unfaithful of his request. Hastily sweeping the strings of her guitar, she struck a sweet and melancholy air, while her rich voice poured forth the following simple yet touching words:

"Fair sister, I come to thy tower,  
While the moon beams all softly and glowing  
The curtains of the young buds, and flower,  
And the stars of the wakening are dancing,  
All brightly and bright,  
On a calm summer's night,  
Lift thine eye, yet not fail to exclaiming  
At thy feet, let me kneel and adore  
This image that lives in my breast,  
And gaze on my face and name,  
Then, then with this heart be at rest,  
Mid those of yore,  
A garden full of roses,  
For the dear I love to possess."

"Beautiful! you could not have sung it better," exclaimed a rich manly voice at her side, as the last tone died away.

"Henry—Mr. Wilson?"

"Dearest Louisa! you know not how happy you have made me! and Henry as he clasped her proffered hand, in both his, and pressed it fervently to his lips. "I feared lest the song should be forgotten."

"You surely could not deem me so regardless of your wishes!" she replied, while a blush stole over the features of the lovely orphan, which told Henry that the idol was won.

CHAPTER VIII.—Conclusion.

"(Rebuke) it is not singular that we have never been able to learn any thing of Louisa, since she left us so mysteriously?"

"Indeed."

"I have made diligent enquiry about that young man who called himself Henry Wilson, but I can gain no information, when, or in what manner, he left this city."

"Has he returned to Philadelphia, do you know?"

"He has. I saw a gentleman this morning from there, who is acquainted with him, who reports him as content, and highly esteemed by all, and a resident of that city. He likewise informed me that when he returned from his visit to this place, he was unaccompanied by any one, and that he is still unmarried."

"It is truly remarkable, for I have ever been under the impression that he was connected with her escape."

"At least I expected to hear from her when she became of age, and it is more than three months since her eighteenth birthday."

"Indeed the mystery becomes deeper, and deeper every day." And Mrs. Langley drew a long breath as the suspense was becoming quite insupportable.

"One thing is certain," remarked her husband, "that Louisa had some secret object in view, or he would never have come here in the disguise of a farmer, and paid his addresses to that girl. But I presume he found her affairs too desperately tangled, even for a 'Philadelphia lawyer'; but what puzzles me most is, that if he, or any person else, was knowing to the particulars of the girl's imprisonment, that there has never been any stir caused from it."

"That is what surprises me, and I am inclined to believe now, that Louisa made her escape entirely unnoticed; though in what manner seems truly unaccountable."

"If in all probability we shall never learn, added the husband, as he arose from the supper table, and strolled out upon the lawn, in hopes to quiet the accusing demon that had now become fully awakened in his breast."

But in his last conclusion, he was doomed to a fearful disappointment; for on the identical evening the foregoing little family secret was being discussed by Mr. and Mrs. Langley, the arrival of Mr. Wilson and lady, was registered at the D—n house No.—Main street.

On the following morning, as Mr. Langley had finished his last cup of coffee, and was carefully looking over the "Daily," a note was handed him by his servant—and as he glanced over its contents, his wife gazed in perfect bewilderment upon the change depicted in his countenance. His face became livid, his eye wild and ferocious, while her whole frame became convulsed with the workings of an intense excitement.

"Good heavens! what is it? what can be the matter?" almost shrieked his wife, unable to endure the dreadful suspense longer. "Do tell what has happened?"

"The mystery is disclosed; every thing is known!" exclaimed the husband, as he tore the unwearying billet into a thousand fragments.

"Mercy on me! don't say so! what is it to be done?"

"What is to be done? why that note demands the immediate payment of a hundred thousand dollars to Henry Wilson, now the husband of Louisa Williams; and in case his demand should not be complied with, a prosecution is threatened, and a full disclosure of all the facts made public."

And Mr. Langley strode up and down the room in a paroxysm, bordering upon insanity; while every muscle quivered with fear and vexation.

"What shall we do? we are ruined!" shrieked the terrified woman, as infamy and disgrace, in horrid reality seemed threatening to over-whelm, and forever crush them beneath its ruins.

"There is but one alternative, the money must be paid!" replied Mr. Langley, in a voice calm only through despair; for it appears that the whole affair has been so thoroughly sifted that a suit could not only be useless, but the exposure the two would necessarily follow would inevitably end in ruin and disgrace."

"Should the money be paid as requested, would the whole transaction be kept secret?" inquired Mrs. Langley.

"Mr. Wilson has pledged his word that such should be the case," replied her husband, but that as it may we have no other alternative left, and must abide the result."

Reader, a few words more and the tale will be told. Suffice it to say that the amount demanded was duly paid over, and the orphan in her prosperity, forgot not the uninterested benevolence of the poor washerwoman, and a yearly income which allowed her the privilege of many of the luxuries of life, was the consequence. As for David Grant, poor fellow, his terrible fright, proved a death blow to all further anticipations of matrimony; and he was content with the meagre comforts of a bachelor's life, and has long since gone the way of all the earth."

## The Grizzly Bear of California.

The grizzly bear is the most formidable and ferocious animal in California; and yet, with all his ferocity of disposition, he rarely attacks man unless surprised or molested.

The fellow never lies in wait for his victim. If the hunter invades his retreat or crosses his path, he will fight, but otherwise contents himself with the immunity which he finds in the wilderness of his home, and the savage grandeur of his nature.

It is never safe to attack him with one rifle; for if you fail to hit him in a vital part he is on you, in the twinkling of an eye.

Your only possibility of escape is up a near tree, too slender for his giant grasp; and then there is something extremely awkward in being on the top of a tree, with such a savage monster at its foot.

How long he will remain there you cannot tell; it may be a day, and it may be a week. Your antagonist is too shrewd to hand you up your rifle or let you come down to get it.

You are his prisoner, more safely lodged than in a dungeon, and he will set you at liberty whenever it suits him. He sleeps not himself, at his post, day and night; his great flashing eyes are fastened upon you. The lyre of Orpheus may have failed to sleep the sentinel of Hades; but his magic tones have never charmed to slumber the sentinel of the wild California forest.

The full grown California bear measures from eight to ten feet in length, and four or five in girth. His strength is tremendous; his endurance, death. Had the priest of Apollo fallen into his folds he would have perished without any of the protracted agonies which the sympathetic muses have wailed round the world. Nature has thrown over him a coat of mail, so thick, indeed, that impervious to the storm and the arrow of the Indian. The fur, which is of a dark brown color, is nearly a span long, and when the animal is enraged, each particular hair stands on end. His food, in the summer, is chiefly berries, but he will, now and then, on some of his particular feast days, slaughter a bullock. In winter he

lives on acorns, which abound in these forests. He is an excellent climber, and will ascend a large oak with the rapidity of a tar up the shrouds of a ship. In procuring his acorns, when on the tree, he does not manifest his usual cunning. Instead of thrusting them down like the Indian, he selects a well-stocked limb, throws himself upon it, swinging and jerking, till the limb gives way, and down they come, bunched, acorns, and bear together. On these acorns he becomes extremely fat, yielding ten or fifteen gallons of oil, which is said to be sufficiently pungent and nutritious a tonic, to tuff a statue's marble head.—*Calton.*

From the Nashville Traction.

Railroad Statistics.

We published, on Saturday, a table from the Railroad Journal, showing the whole number of miles of railroad completed in the United States, up to the 1st of January, 1850, to be 2001 miles, constructed at an estimated cost of \$25,000 per mile, or an aggregate cost of \$25,000,000. We have also shown that these works have been constructed in the Southern and Western States at an average cost one third less than in the Northern and Eastern States. This is to be attributed mainly to the greater facility in procuring the right of way, the difference in the price of timber, and the more favorable condition of the general face of the country for grading, as well as to the fact of their more recent construction in the South and West, having the advantage of the latest improvements in railroad building.

Here are some additional statistics of a most interesting character. A friend has compiled, from authentic sources, a table showing that on the 1st of August, 1850, there were finished, and in use, in 23 States of the Union, 202 railroads, with an aggregate length of 7,741 3-4 miles, exclusive of "coal roads," or those used for transporting coal. The following table shows the States in which they are, their length, and the rate per mile, on an average, charged passengers:

States. Route. Miles. Passage per mile.

New York 30 1250 2.50  
Massachusetts 52 903 2.50  
Pennsylvania 23 740 3.10  
Georgia 6 660 2.20  
Illinois 11 450 2.60  
Connecticut 8 115 3.00  
Ohio 18 1054 2.50  
N. Hampshire 4 312 3.00  
Michigan 4 287 3.00  
Maryland 8 307 5.20  
Virginia 4 282 3.00  
Vermont 4 282 3.00  
South Carolina 2 249 3.50  
North Carolina 2 249 3.50  
New Jersey 9 219 3.00  
Maine 10 225 2.90  
Alabama 2 112 5.10  
Indiana 2 102 2.90  
Illinois 2 97 3.40  
Louisiana 3 89 4.00  
Rhode Island 2 614 unknown  
Mississippi 1 60 3.50  
Kentucky 2 55 3.50  
Delaware 1 16 4.00

Of these roads ten are in the Northern and Eastern States, making the aggregate 4,713 3-4 miles; and in the Southern and Western States 13, the aggregate length of which is 3,039 miles. Of these roads there are 9 located in the slave States, the aggregate length of which is 2,109 miles; and there are 14 in the non-slave States, with a length of 5,632 3-4 miles. The average rates per mile charged for a passenger on the former is 3.13 100, and the average rates of passage per mile on all the American roads is 3.51 100.

\*[To this table should be added 25 miles of the Georgia railroad located in Tennessee, terminating at Chattanooga, upon which the passengers' fare is three cents per mile.]

The Right Feeling.

In the New York Globe we find the following manly and patriotic remarks in reference to the storm which Northern fanatics are endeavoring to raise against the enactment of the fugitive slave bill. We have but little doubt that masses of the people at the North entertain similar feelings, and that the first blood shed, in resistance to this law will be followed by such a demonstration as abolition Fanaticism will not soon forget.—*Independent Messenger.*

Our Southern friends must bear with us yet longer. Things must grow worse here before they are better. Some of the Beecher or Lowell Fanatics, or some of their negro allies, must shoot down some of the officers attempting to do their duty, executing the laws; and then the spirit of the North will be aroused. If we fail then to teach abolition and the "higher law" miscreants a lesson which will forever silence their treasonable babble—then let the South rely on their own strong hands and just rights.

There is honor and virtue and patriotism at the North sufficient to rebuke the foul spirit of faction—to trample upon the enemies of the Union. It requires but the excitement of some startling overt act of a criminal character to arouse that spirit into a terrible manifestation of its omnipotence. A fanaticism in favor of the Union can be awakened, whose devouring flames will scorch and burn, and annihilate in their fiery march—every vestige of sedition and abolition—every trace of treason—every refuge of traitors.

The Washington Republic confirms the statement that the London Industrial Exhibition will be repeated in New York in 1852. Governor's Island has been applied for, and granted for the purpose.—*St. Louis Oregon & Reville.*

## President's Message.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23, 1850.

Fellow citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Being suddenly called in the midst of the last session of Congress by a painful dispensation of Divine Providence, to the responsible station I now hold, I contented myself with such communication to the Legislature as the exigency of the moment seemed to require.

The country was shrouded in mourning for the loss of its venerable Chief Magistrate, and all hearts were penetrated with grief; neither the time nor occasion appeared to require or justify on my part, any general expression of political opinions or any general announcement of the principles which would govern me in the discharge of the duties to the performance of which, I had been so unexpectedly called.

I trust, therefore, that it may not be deemed inappropriate if I avail myself of this opportunity of the reassembling of Congress, to make known my sentiments in a general manner in regard to the policy which ought to be pursued by the government, both in its intercourse with foreign nations, and its management and administration of internal affairs. Nations, like individuals in a state of nature, are equal and independent, possessing certain rights and owing certain duties to each other arising from necessary and unavoidable relations, which rights and duties there is no common human authority to protect and enforce; still there are rights and duties binding in morals, in conscience and in honor, although there is no tribunal to which an injured party can appeal, but the disinterested judgment of mankind, and ultimately the arbitrament of the sword.

Among the acknowledged rights of nations, is that which each possesses of establishing that form of government which may be most conducive to the happiness and prosperity of its citizens, changing that form as circumstances may require, and of managing its internal affairs according to its will. The people of the United States claim this right for themselves and they readily concede it to others; hence it becomes an imperative duty not to interfere in the government or internal policy of other nations, and although we may sympathize with the unfortunate or oppressed everywhere in their struggles for freedom, our principles forbid as taking any part in such foreign contests; but we make no wars to promote or prevent successions to thrones—to maintain any theory of a balance of power, or to suppress the actual government which any country chooses to establish for itself. We in-vigilate no revolutions, nor suffer any hostile military expeditions to be fitted out in the United States to invade the territory or provinces of a friendly nation. The great laws of morality ought to have a national as well as a personal and individual application; we should act towards other nations as we wish them to act towards us, and justice and conscience should be the rule of conduct between governments, instead of mere power, self-interest, or the desire of aggrandizement. To maintain a strict neutrality in foreign wars, to cultivate friendly relations, to reciprocate every noble and generous act, and to perform punctually and scrupulously every treaty obligation—these are the duties which we owe to other States, and by the performance of which we best entitle ourselves to like treatment from them, or if that in any case be refused, we can enforce our own rights with justice, and a clear conscience. In our domestic policy, the Constitution will be my guide, and in questions of doubt shall look for its interpretation to the judicial decision of the the tribunal which was established to expound it, and to the usage of the government sanctioned by the acquiescence of the country; I regard all its provisions equally binding. In all its parts it is the will of the people expressed in the most solemn form, and the constituted authorities are but agents to carry that will into effect—every power which it has granted is to be exercised for the public good; but no honest conviction, even of what might be expedient can justify the assumption of any power not granted. The powers conferred upon the government, and their distribution to the several departments, are as clearly expressed in that instrument as the imperfections of human language will allow, and I deem it my first duty not to question its wisdom, add to its provisions, evade its requirements, or nullify its commands. Upon you, my fellow-citizens, as the representatives of the State and of the people, is wisely devolved the legislative power; I shall comply with my duty in laying before you from time to time any information calculated to enable you to discharge your high and honorable trust for the benefit of your common constituents.

My opinions will be frankly expressed upon all the leading subjects of legislation, and if, what I do not anticipate, any act should pass the two Houses of Congress, which shall appear to me unconstitutional, or an encroachment upon the just powers of other departments, or with provisions hastily adopted, and likely to produce consequences injurious and unforeseen, I should not shrink from the duty of returning it to you, with my reasons, for your further consideration. Beyond the duty of perform-